£18

A True and Perfect

RELATION

OF A

Robbery & Murder

Committed by five notorious High-Way-men, on *Wedneſday* the 18th of this Inſtant *March*, near *Colbrook*;

Where they Robbed a Stage-Coach, and took away Four Hundred Pounds:

WITH THE

Manner how they were forthwith Purſued; ſo that their Horſes Tiring, they took ſeveral perſons Horſes away upon the Road, and mounted themſelves afreſh.

ALSO,

How they were beſet at *Hamſted*, and fought moſt deſperately with above a Hundred men; of whom they killed Two outright upon the Place, and wounded divers others; but at laſt being over-powered and grievouſly wounded, were taken.

Their Examination and Confeſſion before a Juſtice of Peace, and Commitment to *Newgate* on *Thurſday* March 19, 1674.

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AND

A Full and True Relation of the ſeveral Exploits of five grand High-way-men; with the manner of their being apprehended and ſent to *Newgate* on *Thurſday* the 19 of *March* Inſtant.

IT muſt certainly be numbred amongſt the neceſſary Cares of Magiſtracy, not only to prevent and ſuppreſs all publick Commotions that may endanger the General Tranquillity of thoſe People whom Providence hath committed to their Governance; but alſo with ſeverity to puniſh ſuch private Outrages and Violences whereby any particular perſons, againſt Right and the Laws of Humane Society, ſhall endeavour to invade the Proprieties of their Fellow-Subjects: nothing being more deſtructive to Commerce and the well-being of People, than the Exorbitant Villanous Practices of High-way-men, or Robbers on the Road; when the Fruit of Honeſt Induſtry ſhall become a Prey to Riotous Caterpillars, and the comfortable Subſiſtance a man hath acquired by tedious and laborious Sweat, for the ſupport of himſelf and Family, is ſnatch'd away in a moment (perhaps with hazard of his Life, or at leaſt undoing) by the rapacious Hands of each daring extravagant Ruffian.

For restraining these mischievous Enormities the prudence of our Ancestor was inforced to establish sharp Animadversions of Law, inflicting Capital punishments on such delinquents, nor have our present most *Gracious Soveraign* been wanting by his Royal Proclamation and Encouragment of Rewards to Invivigorate those necessary Laws with due Execution for the Extirpation of these Harpyes and Beasts of Prey out of his Dominions.

But so Incorrigable and Desperate are these Sons of *Rapin* in their Injurious Courses, that neither apprehension of their own Danger, nor the Dreadful Examples of great numbers of their Associats daily apprehended and deservedly offered an Sacrifice to insensed Justice on the Fatal Triple Altar, can either divert or reclaim them.

Of this we have just now and too near hand a Deplorable Instance, the full and true Narrative of which in all the unhappy Circumstances to warn others, (if possible) and gratify the Readers Curiosity, be pleas'd to take as follows. Faithfully related upon the certain Information of some Person, whose Ill-state it was to be too far concerned in it.

Five of these Land Capers eminently experienced in the Padding Mystery, having made it their Business for sometime past to cruise up and down the Road between *Branford* and *Windsor*, having made several petty Seizers upon some lean Travelling Purses, at last (by I know not what information the Divel gave them) had advice of a Fatter Prize; some Persons passing

ſing in the Stage-Coach with a conſiderable charge of money, to the value of four hundred pounds.

Hereupon, eager as a hungry Hawk watching for a Covey of innocent Partridges, they put themſelves in Ambuſcade, and having found a place convenient for the Attempt, near Colbrook they Attaque the Coach, and demand the money with as much haſt and fury as an old Uſurer would the penalty of a long forfeited Bond of a young Gallant newly come of Age; The Gentlemen perceiving Reſiſtance equally dangerous and vain, againſt ſuch a party ſo reſolved, and well provided with weapons, diſcreetly conſulted their own ſafety, and ſurrendered the Baggs of paecious Durt to thoſe powerful ſequeſtrators, who without either telling over the ſumm, or giving any Acquittance; but doing the Harneſmaker the kindneſs of cutting the Horſes Traces that they might not preſently follow them make uſe of their Spurs and quick as Lightning diſappeared;

The perſons thus Lightned by the unwelcom help of their beloved Burthen, nimbly addreſs themſelves to the next Juſtice of Peace; Immediately Hue and Cry is ſent forth, all the Country Alarm'd, and the people of the Hundred found themſelves obliged in point of Intereſt to beſtir themſelves, for the Felony was acted about the middle of the day, viz, Wedneſday the eighteenth of this Inſtant March.

The

The Purſuit was Rigorouſly carried on, and their Deſcription every where was Anſwered with intelligence, but not ſo ſilently but that Padding Hero's eaſily could underſtand they were chaſed at the very Heels, Hereupon ſhifting the Road to croſs the Country, and finding their Horſes riding ſo far full ſpeed, begun to Falter, they reſolve to preſs each likely Horſs they meet for their Service, and Diſmounted two or three and cutting their own Horſes Girts left them as ſtray's to feed upon the Common; any Perſons they met they alſo cut their Girts to diſable them from Riding on, leſt they ſhould give more timely Notice to their purſuers.

But that which were like to happen moſt unluckily was in *Paddinton Road*, where overtaking a very Civil Perſon on a good Geldding that had been upon his Occaſions at *Watford* returning homeward one of this flying Troop ſetting a Piſtol to his Breaſt, made him Exchange Horſes with him, and left him: this Perſon riding very gravely on this New tyred Nag, is ſoon overtaken by the Purſuers, who riding up moſt furiouſly, the Man Apprehending them as part of the Rear of that wild Forlorn, which had juſt parted from him, to avoid their Fury, leaves his Horſe and leaps over a Hedge.

This Action raiſed their Suſpition, that he was one of thoſe that they were ſo Buſie in the Queſt after, which was ſoon encreaſed by the coming up of ſome of the Perſons Robb'd, who aver'd that it was one of their Horſes who Robb'd them, hereupon he was

ſecured

ſecured, but afterwards upon better information of the Caſe, Releaſed,

For the Highway-Men ſteering their Courſe about *Paddington*, a perſon well mounted, who was (and for his Courage deſerved well to be) of the Life-Guard to the beſt of Kings, fell into the purſuit ſo cloſe that he alone came up to them, who diſmounted him, and took his Horſe from him, but he inſtantly got another, and came up with them again, whereupon they flung him off the ſecond time, and being upon the Ground, one of the High-way Men told him, that now his Life was at their Mercy, but they ſcorn'd to kill him, becauſe they found he was a perſon ſtout and valiant; a part of Generoſity in ſuce Deſperado's that deſerves highly to be commended; Yet would not this daring Gentleman quit them, but after them again, purſuing them to *Hampſted*; where ſome people croſſing the Country had brought the Alarm before, ſo that they were ſurrounded by above a hundred people, one of them with his Horſe forced his way, the other four diſmounted, and fought moſt deſperately on foot, Killing two of the Country Men that came to take them, and wounding ſeveral others, but having received ſeveral grievous wounds and being overpowered with numbers, they were apprehended. The other that eſcaped here, was purſued to *Iſlington*, where (not without giving and receiving ſeveral wounds firſt) he was at laſt alſo taken, and together with his Companions ſent to New-Priſon.

On

On Thursday the nineteenth, they were carryed before a Justice of Peace, where upon Examination, they cleared the beforementioned Gentleman taken upon suspicion, by confessing the Truth, the Mony was secured, and they thereupon committed with a strong Guard to Newgate, where to the Justice of the Law, and the mercy of God we leave them.

FINIS.